(a) the details of beneficiaries belonging to minorities in Andhra Pradesh under the merit-cum-means scholarship for professional and technical courses at Under Graduate and Post Graduate levels, Pre- Matric Scholarship and Post-Matric Scholarship, during the last five years, yearwise and district-wise; and

(b) how the above scholarships are helping to rapidly increase education among minorities in the State?

THE MINISTER OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI A.R. ANTULAY): (a) The merit-cum-means scholarship scheme for technical and professional courses and the post matric scholarship scheme for students belonging to the minority communities were launched in the year 2007-08. The pre-matric scholarship scheme has been launched in 2008-09. 889 scholarships were awarded under the merit-cum-means scholarship scheme and 2070 under the post matric scholarship scheme in 2007-08 to students belonging to Andhra Pradesh. The details of beneficiaries for the year 2007-08 in Andhra Pradesh are available on the website www.minorityaffairs.gov.in

In 2008-09, 16027 scholarships have been sanctioned to students in Andhra Pradesh under the pre-matric scholarship scheme.

(b) The schemes have just been started and their impact can be evaluated only after two to three years of implementation.

Assaults on a minority community in Orissa

248 SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that many citizens from a minority community were assaulted in Orissa, recently;

(b) if so, whether any steps had been taken to get and grant justice to the above people;

(c) if so, the details thereof, including the number of people affected due to assault and atrocities in Orissa during the last three years, year-wise and category-wise;

(d) whether there is any delay in providing justice to the affected people; and

(e) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI A.R. ANTULAY): (a) to (e) Information is being collected from the Ministry of Home Affairs and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Assault on priests and nun belonging to a minority community

249. SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the report of atrocities and criminal assault on priests and nuns belonging to a minority community in Orissa, Karnataka and Kerala; in the month of September, 2008;